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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): *Hu et al.* Group Art Unit: 1652

Application No.: 09/854,844 Examiner: D. Ramirez

Filed: 05/14/2001 Atty. Docket No.: LEX-0176-USA

Title: Novel Human Protease and Polynucleotides  
Encoding the Same

**AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION**  
**DATED MAY 7, 2002**

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

The Applicants acknowledge the receipt of the Office Action ("the Action") mailed on May 7, 2002 (Paper No. 10), which has been carefully reviewed and studied. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the following amendments. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application is requested in view of the following amendments and remarks. In order to facilitate the Examiner's evaluation of the application, Applicants have attempted to address the rejections in Paper No. 10 in the same order in which they were originally raised.

A Petition for an Extension of Time of one month to and including September 7, 2002, which falls on a Saturday and is therefore extended until Monday, September 9, 2002 under 37 C.F.R. § 1.7, and authorization to deduct the fee as required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(a)(1) from Applicants' representatives Deposit Account are included. The response is thus timely filed. Applicants believe no fees in addition to the fee for the extension of time are due in connection with this response. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any additionally required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0892.

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